



City of Bethel Proclamation

A PROCLAMATION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL, PROCLAIMING MARCH 24, 2016 AS WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY

WHEREAS, tuberculosis (TB) is primarily an illness of the respiratory system and is spread by coughing and sneezing;

WHEREAS, TB remains a disease of public health significance that has infected one quarter of the world's population, and this year alone 9 million people will catch the disease and 1.5 million will die;

WHEREAS, pulmonary TB is contagious and completing an appropriate prescribed course of medication for infected individuals is critical in preventing the spread of the disease;

WHEREAS, World TB Day is held annually on March 24 to commemorate the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch presented his discovery of the TB bacillus to a group of doctors in Berlin;

WHEREAS, healthy people and healthy communities are the centerpiece of a strong and vibrant society;

WHEREAS, the incidence of TB in Southwest Alaska was 5 times the state average in 2014;

WHEREAS, Alaska Native people make up 70 percent of TB cases, while only constituting 15 percent of the population;

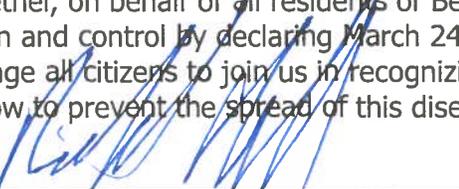
WHEREAS, Alaska has a higher than average National Rate; TB is costly to respond to especially in remote Alaska, due to the lack of adequate and available infrastructure and logistics;

WHEREAS, the spread of TB has been historically associated with overcrowded housing;

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta's state and local health providers are united to support the individuals, families, and communities affected by this disease, and to renew our commitment to preventing the spread of TB;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bethel, on behalf of all residents of Bethel, Alaska, does hereby affirm its commitment to TB prevention and control by declaring March 24, 2016 to be **World Tuberculosis Day** in Bethel, and we encourage all citizens to join us in recognizing the prevalence of TB in our communities and learning about how to prevent the spread of this disease.


Attest: Lori Strickler, City Clerk


Richard Robb, Mayor